

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 and 38 have been canceled. Claims 37 and 39 are pending and have been allowed.

Applicants note that the examiner introduced a new ground of rejection that was not necessitated by applicant's amendment of the claims. Thus, the examiner's designation of the pending action as "final" was premature. *See* MPEP 706.7(a).

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The examiner rejects claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Balandrin (U.S. patent No. 5,506,268).

To advance prosecution of the instant case, applicants have canceled claim 38, thereby obviating the rejection. Applicants, however, specifically reserve the right to pursue the canceled subject in a subsequent continuing application.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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